

COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT Meeting of the East German Foreign Trade Commission  
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1. According to George Handke, the Minister for Foreign Trade and Internal German Trade, the present East German shortage in free currency amounts to 110,000,000 rubles, of which 60,000,000 can be covered by additional exports and fewer imports. DDR exports for the first half of 1952 exceeded the exports for the first half of 1951 by 34 percent. On the other hand the exports for July 1952 amounted to only 97.5 percent of those in July 1951. This is primarily because the machine construction industry (including the SAG) did not fulfill its contract. The backlog of deliveries of the various DIA divisions as of 30 June 1952 was as follows (in millions of rubles):

Maschinenbau	10
Transportmaschinen	10
Chemie-Ausrüstungen	22
Elektrotechnik	10
Feinmechanik/Optik	12
	24

**REFERENCE, GDR**

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2. The chief reason for the nonfulfillment was lack of material; 25 percent of the total deficit in deliveries are attributable to this cause. Eight percent of the total was due to lack of imported material. Other limitations on the production for export caused a backlog amounting to 80,000,000 rubles.

3. According to Alfred Wunderlich, state secretary for Machine Construction, the export backlog of the enterprises under the Ministry for Machine Construction amounted to 72,000,000 east marks.

4. The Foreign Trade Commission has agreed at a meeting:

a. That the Ministry for Foreign Trade and Internal German Trade present to the State Planning Commission the arrears of the various production ministries as of 31 July 1952. These arrears must be adjusted with the respective production ministries

b. That all production ministries prepare delivery charts (Liefergraphiken) for the behind-schedule deliveries as of 31 July 1952 for the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Internal German Trade. They must also prepare delivery

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charts for those plan positions whose fulfillment does not appear likely by 31 December 1952 for the Ministry for Foreign Trade and Internal German Trade.

c. That periodical discussions on the fulfillment of the export plan be held by the Ministry for Foreign Trade and Internal German Trade and the production ministries, which are responsible for seeing that the contract obligations are kept. The chief responsibility lies with the Ministry for Foreign Trade and Internal German Trade.

d. That only plan positions that are ready for production be included in production plans and export plans.

5. The deadlines for the conclusion of the trade agreements between the DDR and the East Bloc countries for 1953 which are to be presented in accordance with Point 11 of the cabinet decisions of 12 June 1952 are confirmed as follows:

a. USSR in Moscow	15 October 1952
b. Hungary in Berlin	Beginning of October 1952
c. Bulgaria in Sofia	Beginning of October 1952
d. China in Peking	Beginning of October 1952
e. Poland in Warsaw	Middle of October 1952
f. Romania in Berlin	Beginning of November 1952
g. Czechoslovakia in Prague	End of November 1952

PHOTOFAX

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